

**REMARKS/DISCUSSION OF ISSUES**

Claims 1-10 are pending in the application. Claims 1-10 are rejected. Claims 3-10 are objected to.

Claims 1-4, 6, 8 and 10 are currently amended. Claims 5 and 7 are cancelled. Claims 11-16 are new.

The Examiner's acknowledgement of receipt of the claim for priority and all priority documents is noted with appreciation.

Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to indicate acceptance of the drawings.

A new Abstract is presented, which eliminates foreign language and reduces the content to a single paragraph. Accordingly, the objection should be withdrawn.

Applicant respectfully declines to add section headings, as such headings are only suggested, not required, by the MPEP.

Claims 3, 4, 6, 8 and 10 are currently amended to delete multiple dependencies. Claims 5 and 7 are cancelled. Accordingly, the objection to claims 3-10 should be withdrawn.

Claims 2-10 are rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, in that claim 2 recites both broad and narrow ranges.

Claim 2 is currently amended to delete the narrow ranges, and new claims 12-16 are presented to claim each of the narrow ranges deleted from claim 2.

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Eastlund et al. U.S. published patent application US 2002 0070668A1 (herein 'Eastlund').

Eastlund discloses an embodiment in Fig. 8B in which the opening 804 is wider at one end than at the other end of plug 200. More specifically, Eastlund teaches at para. [0041] that:

'The opening 804 and the hole 803 may be machined with a high-speed drill or be shaped with a laser as shown in FIG. 8B. .. The space between the electrode base 202 and the openings 800, 804 may be **filled** with (a) a glass frit .. or (b) the nanostructured alumina-silicate ... (emphasis added).

In contrast, Applicant teaches in a preferred embodiment, that the connecting means and/or connection processes like resistance welding between feed-through and the end closure member:

'are located very close to the feed-through exit opening, in order to achieve a gas-tight connection .. with a minimal crevice, or .. with no crevice at all. Thanks to said crevice-less feed-through opening design, room for demixed ionisable salts can be reduced.'

See in this regard Applicant's specification, page 6, lines 4-14, and Fig. 1 of the drawing, where connection means (10) is shown located at the exit opening (9) of end closure member (1).

Claim 1 is currently amended to call for the connection means (10) to be located at least close to the area of the feed-through exit opening (9), and new claim 11 is presented to claim that the connection means (10) is located directly at the area of the feed-through exit opening (9).

Since Eastlund fails to disclose that his connection means (frit or nanostructured aluminosilicate) is restricted to the area of the exit opening of plug 200, and in fact teaches that opening 804 is filled with the connection means, Eastlund fails to anticipate claim 1, and the rejection should be withdrawn.

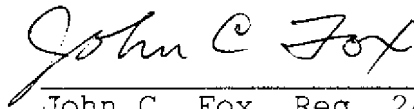
Claim 2 is rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Eastlund in that discovering an optimal or workable range is within the routine skill of the artisan.

Without conceding the patentability per se of the claim 2, it is noted that claim 2 is patentable, *inter alia*, by virtue of its dependency on claim 1.

Accordingly, claim 2 is patentable over the reference, and the rejection should be withdrawn.

In conclusion, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejections and objections of record, allow all the pending claims, and find the application to be in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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